Clearance of pending projects of Bihar

1756. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects from Bihar pending with his Ministry for sanction;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in according the sanction;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be accorded sanction;

(d) whether any requests have been received from the Bihar Government for according sanction to these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard and by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (f) No project of Bihar is pending with Planning Commission for sanction. However, projects in the areas of power, roads and bridges, irrigation, horticulture, dairy development, etc. for Bihar have been accepted in principle by the High Level Committee on the Development and Reform Facility and their sanction will depend on factors such as preparation of Detailed Projects Reports, availability of funds, etc.

National Vision 2020

1757. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Vision 2020 document, prepared by the Planning Commission has been presented to Government;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the document;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has decided to work on broad areas and drawn-out a development map for the country for the next two decades;

(d) if so, whether Government have accepted the document; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. It is expected to be presented by the end of 2002.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Regional imbalance

†1758. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for removing regional imbalance particularly in backward areas during the last five year plans and the details of achievements made in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that expected successes have not been met in this regard; and

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and details of the provisions being made to achieve success during the next five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The removal of regional disparities has been an inherent part of the planning process. The Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central Assistance; through Special Area Programmes such as the Hill Areas Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, etc.; and through various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. However, despite these efforts, certain areas of the country continue to lag behind in the development process owing to historical—geographical factors, differences in resource endowment, etc.

(c) The Development and Reform Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) has been initiated in the Tenth Plan in order to help in the reduction of regional imbalances through schemes which will address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. This scheme has three components: (i) Backward Districts Initiative which is being operated on a pilot basis in the current year covering 25 districts; (ii) Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) Special Plan for the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.